



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTANA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STILL AMONG LOWEST IN NATION (HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate experienced a slight, statistically insignificant increase in August, reaching 2.8 percent. Montana's rate is still one of the lowest in the nation, well below the national rate of 4.6 percent. Neighboring states also continued to rank below the national average with North Dakota at 3.2 percent, South Dakota (3.0), Wyoming (3.4) and Idaho (2.4).

"The state's labor market continues to perform well," said economist Tyler Turner. "The demand for workers, particularly in entry level positions, is apparent in communities across the state."

The consumer price index (CPI) declined by 0.1 percent between July and August. Energy costs were again the primary cause of this movement. This component of the CPI has continued to decrease, showing the largest downward movement in this series over the past three months.

Employment in Montana increased by 300 jobs in August. No significant movements were seen in the industrial sectors, indicating a relatively stable employment picture over the past month. Total U.S. non-farm employment declined by 4,000 between July and August.

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

The September 2007 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday October 19th, 2007

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121